AMC INTEGRATION FOR THE OBJECTIVE FORCE

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Introduction

The Army vision for the Objective Force (OF) is "A force that is responsive, deployable, agile, versatile, lethal, survivable and sustainable" at any point along the spectrum of operations, anywhere in the world. Achieving this vision will require a multitude of innovative and integrated technologies. The Army Materiel Command (AMC) and its subordinate research, development and engineering centers (RDECs) and Army Research Laboratory (ARL) provide a synergistic team to integrate technology for the Objective Force.

To focus on the Objective Force, the AMC Commanding General has established a Technology Integration Board (TIB) and an AMC OF Integrated Product Team (IPT). The TIB is composed of the Technical Directors from the AMC RDECs, the ARL Director, the AMC Deputy Chief of Staff for Research, Development and Acquisition (DCSRDA), and the Assistant DCSRDA/Science and Technology (S&T) Advisor. The TIB provides broad guidance to the AMC OF IPT.

The AMC OF IPT, which consists of senior acquisition personnel representing each of the RDECs and ARL, meets at AMC Headquarters. Figure 1 shows the AMC organizations represented on the IPT and most of the key stakeholders in the Objective Force community. The mission of the AMC OF IPT is to provide integrated materiel developer and acquisition management expertise to the Objective Force community.

Materiel Development

Future Combat Systems (FCS) are essential to the Objective Force, and the AMC OF IPT is engaged in advancing three efforts to facilitate technology transfer between the AMC RDECs and FCS industry teams. These are a technical library, an overarching Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA), and a risk-management program. The following paragraphs describe each of these.

The technical library is a Web-based information system that provides FCS industry teams access to a comprehensive database of AMC S&T programs. The database is organized by science and technology objectives and includes relevant information regarding the purpose, performance metrics, technology readiness level, and description and point-of-contact information for each program. It is updated periodically according to the Department of the Army (DA) review process known as the Army Science and Technology Working Group (ASTWG). The technical library ensures that all of the FCS industry teams have equal access to the AMC S&T programs.

The second effort is the overarching CRADA (Figure 2). The purpose is to standardize and streamline the business arrangements between the AMC RDECs and the FCS industry teams. The overarching CRADA will include corporate business arrangements common to all RDECs, yet will still provide flexibility to accommodate individual industry teams. Potential common business arrangements include exchange of data, trademarks, patents, inventions, joint inventions, and proprietary and protected information. Under the umbrella of the overarching CRADA, cooperative projects will be negotiated between the RDECs and FCS industry teams in coordination with AMC Headquarters. The cooperative projects will include business arrangements specific to the RDECs. Potential specific business arrangements include scope of work, personnel resources, transfer of funds, testing, and test facilities. The overarching CRADA will encourage government

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and industry teaming and will ensure equitable treatment for all participants.

The third effort initiated by the AMC OF IPT is a risk-management program. Risk management is a method for tracking program execution used by program managers (PMs) for development and production programs. For S&T programs, each AMC RDEC currently employs its own methods for monitoring cost, schedule, and performance. A pilot program was initiated to develop a standardized reporting process for risk management of S&T programs associated with the Objective Force. This pilot program includes periodic red, yellow, or green evaluations of risk that display the likelihood of occurrence and significance of impact on achieving the stated objectives of the program. The two S&T programs selected for the pilot program are the Multi-Role Armament and Ammunition System and the Compact Kinetic Energy Missile. Depending on the results of the pilot program, this effort may be expanded to include all Objective Force S&T programs performed by the RDECs.

Acquisition Management

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First, AMC participates in the Objective Force Task Force (OFTF) Council of Colonels and two-star level IPT meetings, Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) Objective Force wargaming exercises, the DA ASTWG process, and the FCS industry team quarterly process reviews. By participating in these forums, AMC can provide integrated support to the Objective Force.

Second, the PM, FCS uses various IPTs to supplement his staff and manage the program. Examples include analysis, operational, system, technical, and cost IPTs that provide independent objective evaluations of industry team progress. The members of these teams are predominantly technical acquisition experts from the AMC RDECs, ARL, and the Army Materiel Systems Analysis Activity.

Third, AMC is contributing to the development of the draft FCS Acquisition Strategy via coordination and review by the appropriate subject matter experts. AMC professionals have a proven track record of moving products through the acquisition life cycle to the field. Further, a new solicitation is currently being prepared for the next phases of the FCS Program. To prepare

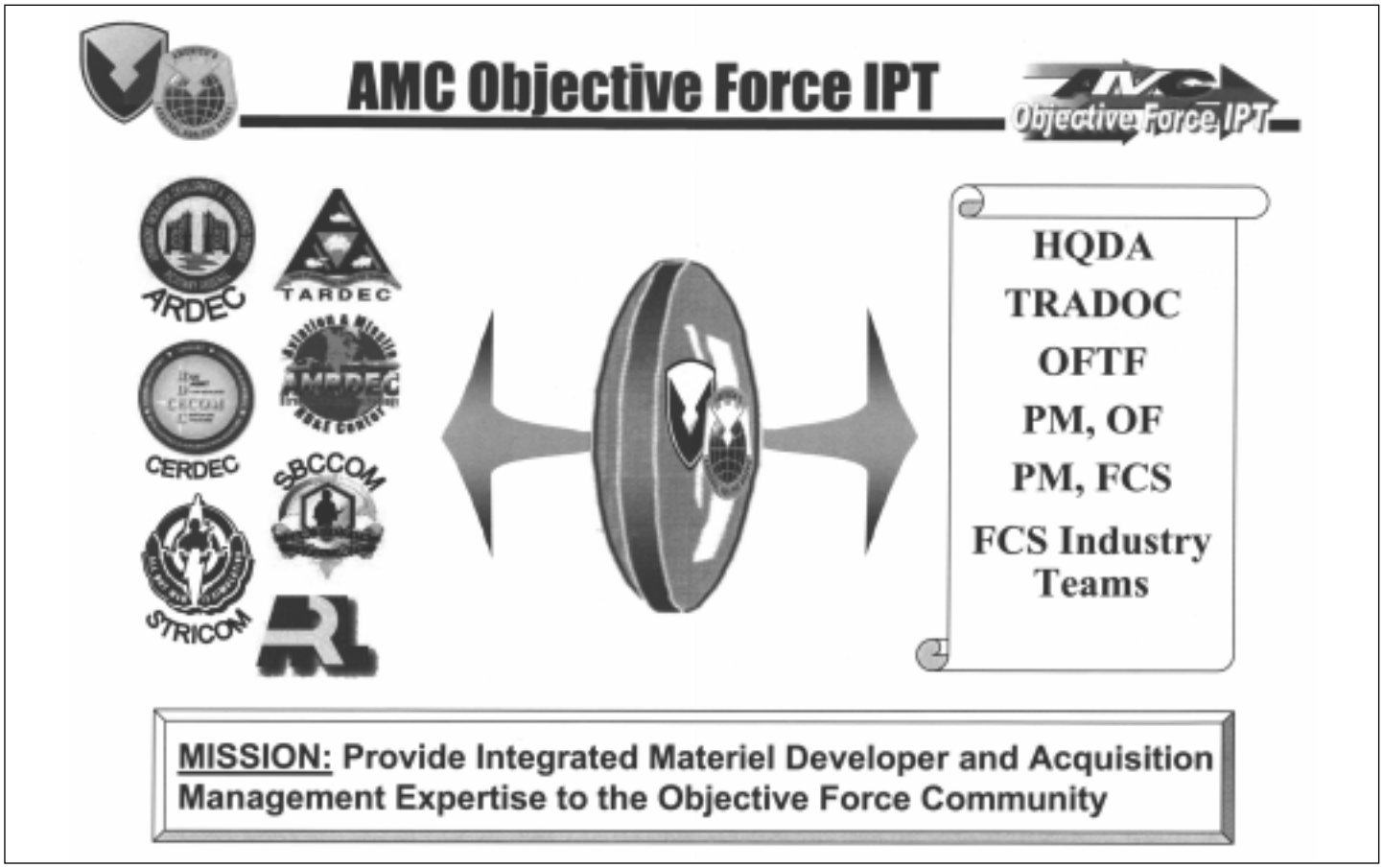

Figure 1.

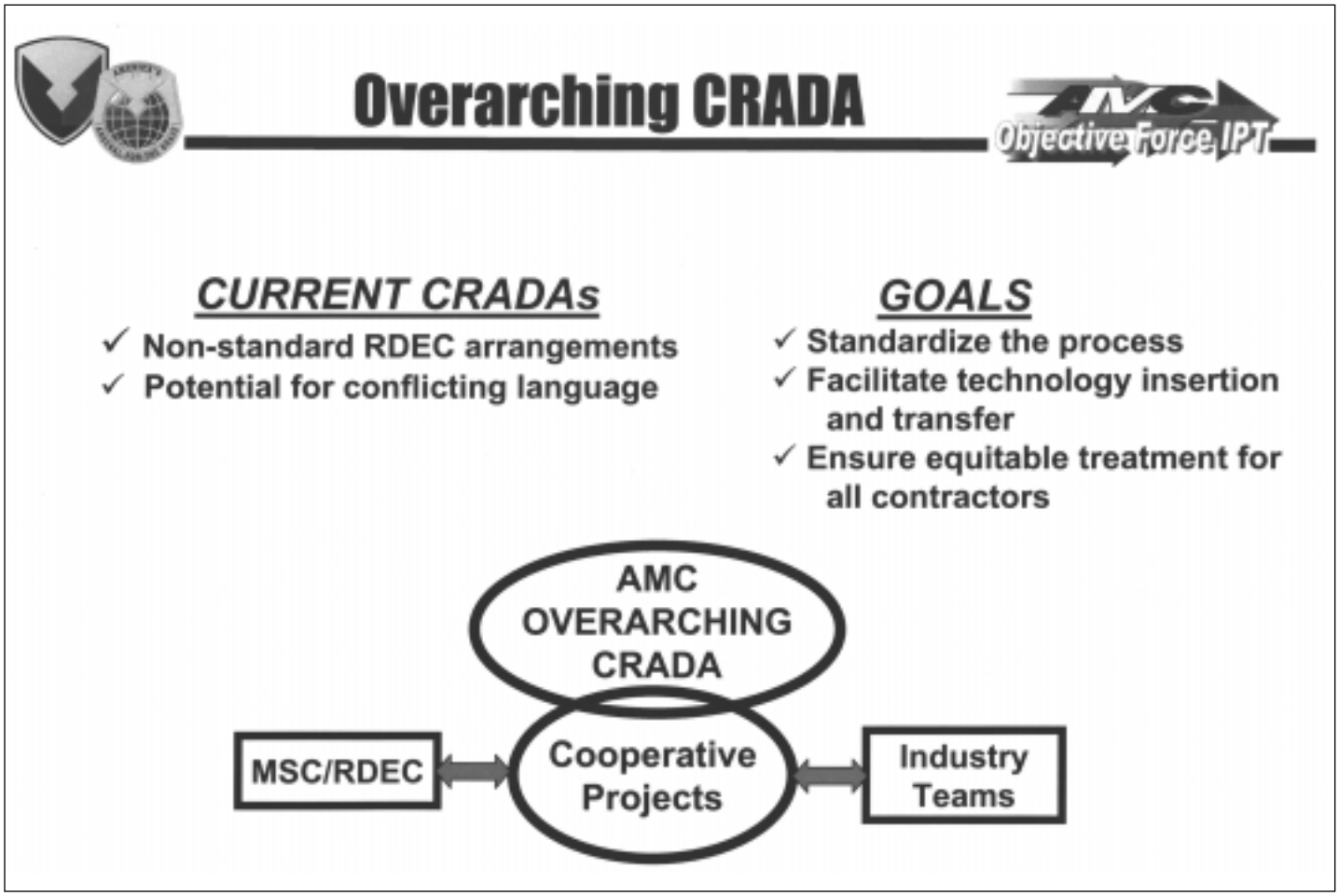

Figure 2.

the solicitation, the PM, FCS has organized a Primary Composition Team and a Staff Review Working Group to write and review the documents. AMC RDEC and OF IPT personnel are contributing members on both of these groups.

Conclusion

AMC is fully engaged and an active participant in the OF Program. To focus and expedite efforts on the Objective Force, the AMC Commanding General has established the TIB and the AMC OF IPT. The AMC OF IPT is developing three products to facilitate and integrate materiel development: a technical library, an overarching CRADA, and a risk-management program. AMC is also providing numerous personnel with acquisition expertise from both headquarters and the RDECs who are integrated throughout the Objective Force community. AMC is committed to the Objective Force.

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